

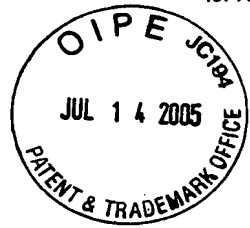
7-18-05

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PC27977A
Response to Office Action, Date mailed June 14, 2005
for Application No. 10/804,295

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s/ Pamela Hollander
Pamela Hollander



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:
Steven P. TANIS, et al

Serial No.: **10/804,295**

Confirmation No.: **7830**

Filed: **March 19, 2004**

For: **PROCESS TO PRODUCE ENANTIOMERICALLY
ENRICHED ALCOHOLS AND AMINES**

Group Art Unit: **1621**

Examiner: **Nazario Gonzalez PORFIRIO**

Mail Stop: **Amendment**
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

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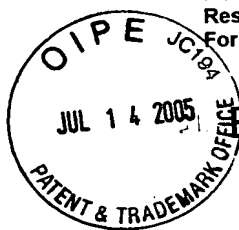
Respectfully submitted,

Date: **July 14, 2005**

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

The following amendments and comments are offered in response to the Office Action, mailed June 14, 2005, in the above-identified application.

Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the productive interview conducted with Applicants' representative on July 5, 2005. Applicants also wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that at least claims 6, 13 and 17 are allowable.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-16, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 6, 13 and 17 are objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim.

Claim 11 has been amended herein to correct an obvious typographical error. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to recite that the steps of the claimed methods are performed in the presence of oxygen. Support for the amendments is found in the specification at least at page 2, lines 22-23 and page 5, line 32, wherein it is disclosed that one embodiment of the present invention is a method of producing a reducing catalyst that does not require anaerobic conditions and such methods need not be performed under complex conditions such as those associated with the use of Schlenk glassware. Additional support is found in the specification at least at page 6, lines 8-9, wherein it is disclosed that the catalyst of the present invention is not sensitive to oxygen. Based on these disclosures, one of ordinary skill in the art would immediately